Prabhakaran's efforts to establish better relations with India

4569. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement made by LTTE Chief V. Prabhakaran to the effect that he wanted to forge closer and better ties with India which is crucial to the success of peace process;

(b) whether it is a fact that he urged Government to forget the past and lift the ban on his organisation which was imposed 14 years back in the wake of assassination of Rajiv Gandhi; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government's stand on the LTTE is well known. LTTE remains a banned organization in India.

Indo-Thailand Agreements

4570. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has signed some agreements with Thailand recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) in what manner the two countries are being benefited out of these agreements; and

(d) how long this agreement will be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India and Thailand signed three Agreements during the two visits of Thai Prime Minister to India in November 2001 and February 2002, *viz.*:

(i) MoU on the Collaboration on Information Technology and services;